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Proposed Bill No. 308: An Act Concerning Community-Based Health Services
Connecticut General Assembly Committee on Insurance and Real Estate
February 8, 2011

Good afternoon Honorable Members of the Committee on Insurance and Real Estate. My name is Loretta Jay and I live in Fairfield. I thank you for this opportunity to provide comment regarding *An Act Concerning Community-Based Health Services*.

I support the proposed Act to require the Insurance Commissioner to explore incentive-based systems to expand community-based services for children with developmental disabilities. I further encourage the expansion of the said Act to also include children with behavioral health needs. I come to this opinion through various professional and life experiences. I run a consulting organization that promotes the emotional health of children and I manage special projects that impact children with mental health disorders. I am a former DCF social worker, supervisor and consultant in the Department's Community Services. Consequently I have seen first hand both the direct and indirect value of community based services for children. Finally, I am the parent of a child with behavioral health needs.

As we all know, Connecticut must lower its expenditures. It may seem counterintuitive to expand services during such a time. But expanding community-based services for children with developmental and behavioral health needs has proven to be cost-effective. Appealing to insurance companies with an incentive-based system will improve the quality of care provided to Connecticut's high-risk children and save the state money by providing lower-cost intervention at the community level. This intervention, when implemented timely and effectively, prevents unnecessary hospitalization and residential placement.

I respectfully urge you to support the Act Concerning Community-Based Health Services, and to expand the proposed act to also include children with behavioral health needs. The outlay at the onset will yield cost savings in the long run.

Respectfully Submitted,

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